

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 15, 2013

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Radisson Hotel, 111 N. Grand Ave., Lansing, Michigan 48933

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Donna Budnick

Janice Dawley

The Hon. Susan Dobrich

Sally Shaheen Joseph

Jay Kommareddi

Janice Nearon

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

Bobbie Gaunt

Renee Haley

Krista Haroutunian

Cathleen Knauf

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Ex-Officio and Liaisons

Sgt. Julie Busch (MSP), Melissa Castro (Dept. of Treasury), Wendy Fitzner (DEQ), GERALYN Lasher (MDCH), Ruthanne Okun (LARA), Denise Stork-Phillips (DHS), Heidi Washington (MDOC), Donna Allen Wilson (Civil Service) Attending by phone: Anne Dutcher (MI Veterans Affairs Agency)

Attendees included Sen. Judy Emmons, Laura Toy (Sen. Emmons' office), Mary Drew (Attorney General's office) Tori Rexford (Governor's Office), Mary McClellan (MDCR), Nancy Short (Deputy Manager, Governor's Appointment Division), Kelsey Weyhing and Jessica Reed (MWC Interns), Clive Gaunt

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Brook Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

- 1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.
- 2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the October 22, 2012 meeting minutes. Passed.
- 3) Senator Emmons spoke about human trafficking and invited everyone to a May 2 informational event .
- 4) Mary Drew, Michigan Attorney General's office, spoke about
 - a) The Senior Brigade program, <http://www.seniorbrigade.com/> , providing information on consumer protection, financial matters, health care issues and veterans' services to seniors; and
 - b) The Michigan Cyber Safety Initiative (Michigan CSI), an Internet safety education program with customized presentations for kindergarten through eighth-grade students and a community seminar http://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-164-18155_48889---,00.html .
- 5) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:
Commissioner Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking;
Commissioner Gaunt – Women Veterans;
Commissioner Dobrich - MADCP conference and veterans courts;
Commissioner Etienne - women-owned business and website redesign.
- 6) Commissioner Haley announced Clare County's Freedom Park Veterans Memorial initiative.
- 7) Commissioner Knauf reported on activities of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force.
- 8) Commissioner Budnick stated that this was her last meeting, and was thanked for her service.
- 9) Wendy Fitzner (DEQ) announced Earth Day events at Constitution Hall.
- 10) No public comment was received.

11) The next Michigan Women's Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., August 5,, 2013, Saugatuck Center for the Arts in Saugatuck.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brook Thompson, Chair

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, August 5, 2013

Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

Janice Dawley, D.D.S.

The Hon. Susan Dobrich

Bobbie A. Gaunt

Renee Haley

Cathleen M. Knauf

Jayashree Kommareddi

Staff

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Ex-Officio and Liaisons

Sgt. Julie Busch (MSP), Wendy Fitzner (DEQ), Geralyn Lasher (DCH), Michelle Strobel (MDOS), Heidi

Washington (MDOC). Attending by phone: Ruthanne Okun (LARA), Patti Cantu (DOE), Donna Allen

Wilson (Civil Service), Denise Stork-Phillips (DHS), MWC Commissioner Krista Haroutunian

Attendees included Nancy Short (Deputy Manager, Governor's Appointment Division), Kelsey Weyhing (MWC Intern), Michelle Jump and others.

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Alyssa R. Martina

Janice Nearon

Kathleen B. Vogelsang

Mary P. Whiteford

Carol L. Zimmer

Krista Haroutunian (by phone)

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice-Chair Chris Etienne called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.

2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the April 15, 2013 meeting minutes, as corrected. Passed.

3) The newly-appointed Commissioners, Alyssa R. Martina, Kathleen B. Vogelsang, and Mary P. Whiteford, were welcomed.

4) Kurt Stamm, Artistic Director, and Mary Kay Baker, Chair, Saugatuck Center for the Arts, spoke of the Center's development, stressing the need to be significant to the community by choosing programming that filled gaps left by declines in arts funding for schools and reached out to underserved; and emphasizing building partnerships.

See www.sc4a.org for more information.

5) Veronica LaDuke, Public Information Officer, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, spoke. The agency's head, Jeff Barnes, was named March 20, 2013. Their goal is to be at full speed by Oct. 1, with an improved web portal that is "a one-stop shop". Helping veterans transfer military skills to workforce and providing information on eligibility for benefits, Veterans Trust Fund, will be emphasized, as well as education, employment, health care, and quality of life.

6) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:
a) Commissioner Etienne (women-owned business and website redesign) asked Kelsey Weyhing, MWC intern, to present a proposed outreach campaign to increase social media traffic and awareness of federal contracting opportunities for women-owned businesses. The Commission approved and requested a content calendar.

b) Commissioner Kommareddi (Awareness of Human Trafficking) praised Com. Knauf's fundraising efforts, "Planting Hope," for the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force, and reported 11 speaking engagements since the last meeting, as well as a collaboration with Weiss Child Advocacy Center on 2 events and the formation of a Genesee County Human Trafficking Task Force.

c) Commissioner Gaunt (Women Veterans) said that letters had been sent to college and university presidents, requesting information on women veteran enrollments. Judge Dobrich reported on the status of Veterans Courts and suggested a possible collaboration with Deb Cain, Director, Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, on military sexual trauma issues.

7) No public comment was received.

8) The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., October 21, 2013, at the Boulevard Inn, St. Joseph

9) The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Etienne, Vice- Chair

MICHIGAN WOMEN'S COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, October 21, 2013

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Boulevard Inn, 521 Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph, MI 49085

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Brook Thompson, Chair

Chris Etienne, Vice Chair

JaniceJoanne Dawley, D.D.S.

The Hon. Susan Dobrich

Bobbie A. Gaunt

Staff

Cathleen M. Knauf

Jayashree Kommareddi

Deidre Lambert-Bounds

Janice Nearon

Kathleen B. Vogelsang

Mary P. Whiteford

Carol L. Zimmer

Susy Avery, Executive Director; Elizabeth Thompson, Program Specialist

Ex-Officio and Liaisons included Ron Robinson, Attorney General; Denise Stork-Phillips, Human Services; Ingrid Tighe, Veterans Affairs Agency. Participating by phone: Geralyn Lasher, Community Health; Heidi Washington, Corrections; Wendy Fitzner, Environmental Quality; Ruthanne Okun, Licensing and Regulatory Affairs; Capt. Monica Yesh, State Police; and MWC Commissioner Renee Haley.

Attendees included Charisse Blanks, MI Civil Service Commission; Debra Johnson, Lakeland Health; Alicia Razor, State of Michigan Veteran Employment, and others.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

The Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

1) It was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda as proposed. Passed.

2) It was moved and seconded to adopt the August 5, 2013 meeting minutes, as corrected. Passed.

3) Senator John Proos, of St. Joseph, welcomed the Commission and described legislative efforts to combat human trafficking in Michigan.

4) Charisse N. Blanks, Career Services Manager, Office of Career Services, State of Michigan Civil Service Commission (MCSC) outlined State of Michigan recruitment initiatives for veterans. MCSC staff attend and publicize veteran-specific events, especially career events. MCSC staff lead job search workshops and provide 1 to 1 help to veterans. Some state departments (Transportation, State Police, Corrections) do active recruitment with veterans groups. The MCSC works with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Michigan Committee, the Military Employment Coordinating Council and the American Legion.

5) The chair asked the following commissioners to report on MWC initiatives and related matters:
Comm. Kommareddi – Awareness of Human Trafficking: Commissioners Knauf, Whiteford and Kommareddi, and Susy Avery attended the state human trafficking conference. The MWC was a conference sponsor. The regional human trafficking task forces have conducted numerous awareness events and trainings. The next issue to explore is how to educate educators and the health care community about human trafficking.

Comm. Gaunt – Helping Michigan's Women Veterans: The female veterans' survey will be hosted on the new Veterans Affairs website. After the survey is posted, commissioners plan attending events to publicize the survey. Commissioners also will work to support recognition of veteran's courts, possibly through letter.

Comm. Etienne - Helping Women in Business; MWC social media: Commissioners are examining the question of how to increase the number of women serving on corporate board, and exploring possible partnership with Crain's Detroit Business to develop strategy to address the issue. There is no progress on website re-design.

10) No public comment was received.

11) The next Commission meeting will be 2:00 p.m., January 13th at the MSU Kellogg Center, East Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brook Thompson, Chair